

start on changing the system. These reforms will go a long way toward curing the inequities in cost and coverage under existing health insurance practices.

There's another bipartisan reform package out there. It was proposed by Senator Pat Moynihan and Senator Dave Durenberger, and that is in most respects consistent, it is, with my plan and would promote much greater use of coordinated care in Medicaid. East Baltimore knows that this works. We must make it easier for the rest of the country to follow your pioneering road to better health care. In fact, as part of our plan for comprehensive reform, I want to make coordinated care the norm, not the exception, for Medicaid. We must work together now to pass these reforms that will provide literally millions of Americans with affordable health coverage for the first time and then get a leg up on that comprehensive reform.

Our plan does everything the Government can and should do to ensure the quality of life of each citizen of this great land. It doesn't promise the Moon. It does something more important: It really guarantees, it promises the future. Reform is never easy, but in health care I think, wherever you're coming from, I think everybody would agree health care reform is a must. And we will deliver what we say we can, competition, competition-driven, market-based reform, and we'll deliver it proudly.

This is kind of a second unveiling of our overall program, but it seemed most appro-

priate to bring out these specifics here in Baltimore, an area where you've had so much innovation, so much excellence, so much success. So I just want you to know we're serious about this. We are going to continue to push for it, and we must get started right now.

I have learned a lot today, and I am very grateful to those who have shown me what is going on in this exceptional health care facility. I've always had great respect for what is going on in Johns Hopkins, this institution of excellence in every category.

So as I conclude, let me say, I am not pessimistic about our ability to help those people who need help in terms of health care. We can get the job done. I will now be trying to work with our hands extended in a nonpartisan or in a bipartisan mode to see if we can't make things a little better for the people, some of whom I saw here today.

Thank you all very much for listening. And may God bless the United States.

Note: The President spoke at 3:30 p.m. at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School. In his remarks, he referred to Dr. Robert M. Heyssel, president, Johns Hopkins Health System; Robert C. Winter, chairman and chief executive officer, the Prudential Insurance Co.; Barbara Hill, president, Prudential Health Care Plan of the Mid-Atlantic; and Pete Pompey, athletic director and basketball coach at Dunbar High School.

Message to the Congress Transmitting Proposed Legislation on Youth Apprenticeship

May 13, 1992

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit herewith for your immediate consideration the "National Youth Apprenticeship Act of 1992." Also transmitted is a section-by-section analysis.

This legislation would establish a national framework for implementing comprehensive youth apprenticeship programs. These programs would be a high-quality learning alternative for preparing young people to be

valuable and productive members of the 21st century work force. Although this framework has been designed to be comprehensive and national in scope, it is also flexible enough to allow States to customize the model to economic, demographic, and other local conditions.

I am proposing this legislation in order to

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promote a comprehensive approach for helping our youth make the transition from school to the workplace and strive to reach high levels of academic achievement. The lack of such an approach is one very important reason that a significant proportion of American youth do not possess the necessary skills to meet employer requirements for entry level positions.

There is widespread agreement that the time has come to strengthen the connection between the academic subjects taught in our schools and the demands of the modern, high-technology workplace. Work-based learning models have proven to be effective approaches for preparing youth at the secondary school level.

Under my proposal, a student could enter a youth apprenticeship program in the 11th or 12th grade. Before reaching these grades, students would receive career and academic guidance to prepare them for entry into youth apprenticeship programs. Particular programs may end with graduation from high school or continue for up to an additional 2 years of postsecondary education. In addition to the high school diploma, all youth apprentices would earn a certificate of competency and qualify for a postsecondary program, a registered apprenticeship program, or employment.

A youth apprentice would receive academic instruction, job training, and work experience. The program is intended to attract and develop high-quality, motivated students. Standards of academic achievement, consistent with voluntary, national standards, will apply to all academic instruction,

including the required instruction in the core subjects of English, mathematics, science, history, and geography. Students also would be expected to demonstrate mastery of job skills.

My proposal provides for vigorous involvement at the Federal, State, and local levels to ensure the success of the program. It also requires that employers, schools, students, and parents promise to work together to achieve the program goals. Enactment of my proposal will result in national standards applicable to all youth apprenticeship programs. Thus, upon completion of the program, the youth apprentice will have a portable credential that will be recognized wherever the individuals may go to seek employment or pursue further education and training.

I believe that the time has come for a national, comprehensive approach to work-based learning. The bill I am proposing would establish a formal process in which business, labor, and education would form partnerships to motivate the Nation's young people to stay in school and become productive citizens. It will provide American youth the opportunity to gain marketable and portable skills while establishing a relationship with a prospective employer.

I urge the Congress to give swift and favorable consideration to the National Youth Apprenticeship Act of 1992.

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,
May 13, 1992.

Nomination of Joseph Charles Wilson IV To Be United States Ambassador to Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe

May 13, 1992

The President today announced his intention to nominate Joseph Charles Wilson IV, of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador to the Gabonese Republic and to serve concurrently without compensation as Ambassador to the Democratic Republic

of Sao Tome and Principe. He would succeed Keith Leveret Wauchope.

Currently Mr. Wilson serves as a member of the senior seminar at the Foreign Service Institute. From 1988 to 1991, he served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, and as Deputy Chief of